(c) the salient features of the missile?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERN ANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Anti-tank missile 'Nag' was test fired on 2nd September 2001 from ITR, Balasore.

(b) This missile was launched from a tube in programmed control mode. It achieved all the mission objectives of qualifying the control sensor package, electro-mechanical actuator and smokeless extruded double base (EDB) sustainer propellant.

(c) 'Nag' is a third generation, anti-tank missile having 'top attack' and 'fire & forget' capabilities for Army on two platforms *i.e.* Nag Missile Carrier (NAMICA) and Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH). 'Nag' has a range of 4 km.

Full-Fledged Air base on the Nicobar Islands

1080. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set-up a full-fledged air base on the Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) by when the IAF is likely to begin tighter operations from Nicobar Islands Territories?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A full fledged Air Force base already exists at Car Nicobar.

(c) Fighter operations are being carried out, as and when required.